

Message Text

PAGE 01 PARIS 03068 041837Z

45

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

----- 058071

O R 041740Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6594

INFO USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T PARIS 3068

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: MODIFICATION OF US STRATEGIC POLICY

DEPT PASS SECDEF

REF: (A) PARIS 2735

(B) STATE 21224

1. SUMMARY. IN REF A WE DESCRIBED QUESTIONS RAISED BY FRENCH CONCERNING SECDEF'S STATEMENT ON STRATEGIC TARGETING. IN LIGHT OF DECISION IN REF B TO BRIEF NATO, EXCEPT FRANCE, IN NPG AND DPC, IN RECOMMEND THAT EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED TO BRIEF GOF AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL, DRAWING ON MATERIAL MENTIONED IN PARA 2 OF REF B. END SUMMARY.

2. BEHAVIOR OF GOF IN RECENT MONTHS ON SEVERAL ISSUES OF DIRECT RELEVANCE TO U.S. INTERESTS (E.G., MIDDLE EAST, ENERGY CRISIS, US-EC DECLARATION) HAS BEEN IRRITATING, FREQUENTLY OBSTRUCTIONIST. WE CERTAINLY MUST BE CAREFUL TO AVOID GIVING APPEARANCE THAT MAVERICK FRENCH PERFORMANCE IN THESE AND OTHER MATTERS IS REWARDED BY US FAVORITISM. BRIEFING FRENCH ON SECDEF'S STATEMENT REGARDING STRATEGIC TARGETING, HOWEVER, DOES NOT FALL WITHIN CATEGORY OF "REWARDS." RATHER, IT SERVES U.S. INTERESTS AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 5 BELOW.

SECRET

PAGE 02 PARIS 03068 041837Z

3. ON IMMEDIATE QUESTION OF BRIEFING GOF ON SECDEF'S TARGETING STATEMENT, WE DEFER TO JUDGEMENTS OF USNATO AND WASHINGTON ON WHETHER TO INCLUDE FRENCH IN NATO BRIEFING. FRANCE SHOULD BE BRIEFED, HOWEVER, BILATERALLY IF NOT

MULTILATERALLY.

4. QUESTIONS OF MILITARY STRATEGY, INCLUDING NUCLEAR STRATEGY, HAVE LONG BEEN AREA OF DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN U.S. AND FRENCH. NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE AGREED TO DISCUSS OUR DISAGREEMENTS BILATERALLY. DEBRE VISIT TO U.S. IN 1972 AND GALLEY VISIT IN 1973 FEATURED DETAILED GIVE AND TAKE ON MILITARY STRATEGY. THE EMBASSY ITSELF CARRIES ON ACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH GOF OFFICIALS. AND ONE OF MAJOR FOCAL POINTS IN NATO'S CONSIDERATION OF FRENCH DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES HAS BEEN PRECISELY THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FRENCH AND U.S. FORMULATIONS OF STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS TO BE DERIVED FROM THE NATURE OF THE THREAT. IT IS PRECISELY THESE TYPES OF EXCHANGES THAT OFFER THE BEST HOPE OF CREATING BETTER UNDERSTANDING BY FRENCH OF OUR STRATEGIC CONCEPTIONS AND PERHAPS OF MOVING FRENCH TOWARD THEIR ACCEPTANCE. MOREOVER, FRENCH ARE IN PROCESS OF EXAMINING FUTURE STRATEGY FOR THEIR GROWING INVENTORY OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WHILE WE ARE REALISTIC ABOUT THE LIMITS ON OUR ABILITY TO GUIDE FRENCH THINKING IN THIS AREA, NOW IS A PARTICULARLY INOPPORTTUNE TIME TO SIGNAL TO FRENCH THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO IGNORE THEM IN DESCUSSING WITH OUR NATO ALLIES THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR STRATEGIC THINKING.

4. AS WE REPORTED IN REF A, GOF OFFICIALS GENERALLY SEE THRUST OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENT AS INDICATION THAT U.S. IS STRENGTHENING DETERRENCE. THEY DO HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT IMPLICATIONS FOR SALT AND MBFR. WE EXPECT THAT THESE DOUBTS CAN BE MODERATED IF NOT DISPELLED BY ADEQUATE U.S. CLARIFICATION. ABSENCE OF U.S. WILLINGNESS TO MAKE EFFORT TO ADDRESS FRENCH QUESTIONS, COUPLED WITH U.S. WILLINGNESS TO TALK TO OTHER ALLIES ON THIS SUBJECT, RISKS CONFIRMING IN FRENCH MINDS DOUBTS CONCERNING U.S. INTENTIONS IN SALT AND MBFR. PERPETUATION OF THESE DOUBTS SERVES NEITHER THE INTEREST OF
SECRET

PAGE 03 PARIS 03068 041837Z

OF THE U.S. NOT OF NATO. WE EXPECT THAT FRENCH WOULD SEEK TO SPREAD THEIR DOUBTS TO OTHER ALLIES, PERHAPS OUT OF MISCHIEF BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY OUT OF CONVICTION THEIR DOUBTS HAVE NOT BEEN REBUTTED AND ARE, THEREFORE, WELL FOUNDED. IN TURN, FRENCH COULD USE THIS MISPERCEPTION AS AMMUNITION IN THEIR CAMPAIGN TO DEFINE THE SEPARATE NATURE OF EUROPE'S DEFENSE SITUATION, AS THEY HAVE SOUGHT TO DO IN CONTEXT OF FRENCH DRAFT OF NATO DECLARATION.

6. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT, ON OCCASION OF LAST SIGNIFICANT U.S. CHANGE IN NUCLEAR AFFAIRS CONCERNING NATO, THE CONVERSIONFROM POLARIS TO POSEIDON IN 1971,

WE BRIEFED NATO (EXCLUDING THE FRENCH) IN DETAIL IN BRUSSELS,
AND SUBSEQUENTLY PROVIDED SEPARATE PRESENTATION TO FRENCH
IN PARIS AND IN BRUSSELS. THIS PRECEDENT SHOULD BE FOLLOWED IN
CASE OF CONSULTATION WITH GOF ON STRATEGIC TARGETING IF FRENHC
ARE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM NATO CONSULTATION ON THAT
SUBJECT AUTHORIZED BY REF. B.

7 FOR THESE REASONS, I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE
EMBASSY BE AUTHORIZED TO BRIEF GOF DURING WEEK OF FEBRUARY4,
AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL, DRAWING ON MATERIAL MENTIONED IN PARA 2 OF
REF B. I WOULD WELCOME REPRESENTATION FROM WASHINGTON TO BRIEF
ME PRIOR TO PRESENTATION TO GOF.
IRWIN

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, ENERGY, MILITARY CAPABILITIES, STRATEGIC TRADE CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS03068
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P740146-0605
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740268/abbrzbfr.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: (A) PARIS 2735 (B) STATE 21224
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <31 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MODIFICATION OF US STRATEGIC POLICY
TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, FR, US, NATO
To: STATE INFO NATO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005